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## Tall Weeds Grow At Army Hospital After L.A. Embarkation Port Closes

High weeds already are growing on the Torrance Army hospital grounds, hiding the buildings and marring the landscape, and letting the public know that the institution no longer is in operation.

However, the county of Los Angeles is negotiating with the War Department to assume control and operation of the hospital as a branch of the County General Hospital.

With the closing of the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation, of which the hospital was a part, one of the biggest phases of the participation of Torrance in World War II has ended.

At the hospital are three officers in charge of medical supply and mess, the guards, fire department and a few civilians. All equipment is intact for use of the county when control is assumed.

The doors were locked Saturday on the port of embarkation, which since 1942 handled 600,000 soldiers in and out of the Pacific theatre, plus 10,000,000 tons of cargo.

The port at wartime peak had

a personnel of 5000 military and 3000 civilian employees.

Headquarters have been moved to the Mantua warehouse on Pacific Coast highway, east of Wilmington, where final paper work and disposition of supplies will be carried on under the supervision of the San Francisco port of embarkation. The staff still numbers 200 with Lt. Col. Winston Butscher in command.

Shipping operations ended a month ago and the Camp Ross barracks near Bixby slough was closed.

The army port's fleet of tugs, barges and other vessel valued at \$10,000,000 are being disposed of through public sale by the war shipping administration.

The city housing authority is conducting negotiations to take over 215 units at Camp Ross with plans to convert the buildings into temporary housing for veterans.

No plans have been made for the port of embarkation proper, which straddles the bay end of Fries ave. and spreads southwest towards the docks and northeast into the fringe of Wilmington proper.

The now deserted port with its scores of barracks and maze of administration buildings including the two-story headquarters with three wings, warehouses, mess hall, theatre, former officers' lounges and post exchange could be converted into housing for more than 500 veterans and their families, it is estimated.

The CEA is eyeing this possibility, but said negotiations first must be completed for the conversion of Camp Ross.

### Important Guest Speakers On 'Jobs For Vets' Program

Furthering the campaign for "Jobs for Veterans," a meeting will be held Monday evening, April 8th, at 7:45, in the Torrance Civic Auditorium, sponsored by the Torrance, Gardena, Lomita, Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach veteran and service organizations and other civic groups, in an endeavor to create suitable employment for all returning veterans.

The purpose of this meeting is to inform all employers, large and small, ways and means to assist in promoting jobs for veterans by using "On-the-Job" training, as provided in the GI Bill of Rights.

Well-informed men on this subject have been obtained as guest speakers, including Raymond Krahn, Director of United States Employment Service of Southern California; Rolla McFall, Field Supervisor and Archie Mooney, Chief of Division of Apprenticeship Standards, Industrial Relations, State of California; Dr. Robert Ziegler, A. F. of L., and C. J. Harding, C. I. O.

These speakers will give a complete resume of the advantages to the employer as a result of the GI Bill of Rights.

**FIRST USE OF CANNON**  
Cannon were first used by Edward the Third against the Scots in 1327.



**RETURNS HOME**... Melvin L. Benner, son of Capt. and Mrs. J. J. Benner, 1728 Andrew ave., was discharged recently from the Army Signal Corps following nearly four years of service. Benner, who was a master sergeant prior to his release, served in the European theatre of operations during the past 15 months. He is a graduate of Torrance high school and Compton Junior College, and was employed with the Compton branch of the Security-First National bank before entering the Army.

### Dividend Of \$1.50 A Share By Phone Co.

Following a meeting of the board of directors of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, N. R. Powley, president, made the following statement:

"The directors, on March 7, 1946, declared a dividend of \$1.50 per share on the preferred stock payable April 15 to shareholders of record March 30, and a dividend of \$1.50 per share on the common stock payable March 30 to shareholders of record March 18.

"Traffic volumes and new applications for telephone service have increased pronouncedly since V-J day.

"In the first two months of this year toll and long distance calls and new applications for telephone service increased 20 percent and 96 percent respectively, over the high levels of the same period last year.

"The number of telephones in service as of February 28, 1946 shows an increase of 138,000 since V-J day, of which more than 67,000 were added in the first two months of this year, almost four times the 18,860 telephones added in the corresponding period of 1945. Our total unfilled orders, however, are still large and aggregate more than 260,000.

"As pointed out in the 1945 Annual Report, recently sent to shareholders, the year 1946 imposes a task of service and plant expansion of the first magnitude. Our management realizes fully the importance of leaving nothing undone, not only to provide service as rapidly as possible for all who want it, but also to make our service even better than it has ever been before.

"Expenses have risen appreciably, particularly payroll costs, due to the large wage expenditures to which our company committed itself last year, and the further wage negotiations initiated recently in collective bargaining. The decreases in federal taxes are far more than offset by added payroll costs."

### AIRPLANE GAS TANKS

Surplus airplane gasoline tanks released by the army are being put to many different uses by farmers. Among these are feed and water troughs for stock, irrigation tanks, brooder houses for baby chicks, pontoons to support pipe lines across water and home made showers. The tanks also make fishing boats, duck blinds, home-made showers, storage containers and sand boxes for children.

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## Victorious Living Radio Program Is Given High Praise

Praise of "Victorious Living," a radio program series planned and produced by the International Council of Religious Education, was given by the Federal Communications Commission in a report recently released in Washington, D. C., according to Miss Pearl Rosser, director of radio education of the International Council.

Urging that radio stations of America make "service to non-profit organizations" an important part of their program schedules, the Commission commended two religious programs, "Victorious Living" and "Salute to Valor," the latter planned and produced by the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Broadcasting Company.

"Such programs as these have done much to enrich American broadcasting," the report states. "It may well be that they have kept in the radio audience many whose tastes and interests would otherwise cause them to turn to other media."

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